

***What Is Claimed Is:***

1. In a network subject to a previous failure and a subsequent failure, a method for restoring the network comprising the steps of:

overcoming the previous failure using a first protection scheme;

detecting the subsequent failure;

determining that the previous failure can be overcome using a second protection scheme;

determining that the subsequent failure can be overcome using the first protection scheme but can not be overcome by using the second protection scheme;

applying the second protection scheme to overcome the previous failure; and

applying the first protection scheme to overcome the subsequent failure.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

determining that the first protection scheme is unable to overcome the subsequent failure because the first protection scheme has already been applied to overcoming the previous failure.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the first protection scheme is designed to circumvent a failure affecting a span in the network using a spare resource within the span and the second protection scheme is designed to circumvent a failure affecting a span in the network using a resource outside of the span.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining that the previous failure can be overcome using a second protection scheme is based upon a failure type associated with the failure.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining that the previous failure can be overcome using a second protection scheme is based upon a whether the previous failure is a module failure or a line failure.

5 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining that the subsequent failure can be overcome using a first protection scheme is based upon a failure type associated with the subsequent failure.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining that the subsequent failure can be overcome using a first protection scheme is based upon a whether the subsequent failure is a module failure or a line failure.